

Substitute Senate Bill No. 204

Senate, April 1, 1998. The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY, 13th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-14n of the general
2 statutes, as amended by section 5 of public act
3 97-247, is repealed and the following is
4 substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (a) Each student enrolled in the [fourth]
6 THIRD grade in any public school shall annually,
7 IN THE SPRING, take a state-wide mastery
8 examination. For purposes of this section, a
9 state-wide mastery examination is defined as an
10 examination which measures whether or not a
11 student has mastered essential grade-level skills
12 in reading, language arts and mathematics. The
13 mastery examination shall be provided by and
14 administered under the supervision of the State
15 Board of Education.

16 (b) Each student enrolled in the [sixth]
17 FIFTH grade and each student enrolled in the
18 [eighth] SEVENTH grade in any public school shall
19 annually, IN THE SPRING, take a state-wide mastery
20 examination. Such mastery examination shall be
21 provided by and administered under the supervision
22 of the State Board of Education.

23 (c) Annually, IN THE SPRING, each student
24 enrolled in the tenth grade in any public school
25 or any endowed or incorporated high school or
26 academy approved by the State Board of Education
27 pursuant to section 10-34 shall take a state-wide
28 mastery examination. Such mastery examination
29 shall be provided by and administered under the
30 supervision of the State Board of Education.

31 (d) If a student meets or exceeds the
32 state-wide mastery goal level on each component of
33 the state-wide tenth grade mastery examination,
34 certification of such mastery shall be made on the
35 permanent record and the transcript of each such
36 student. Each student who fails to meet the
37 mastery goal level on each component of said
38 mastery examination may annually take or retake
39 each such component at its regular administration
40 until such student scores at or above each such
41 state-wide mastery goal level or such student
42 graduates or reaches age twenty-one.

43 (e) No such public school or endowed or
44 incorporated high school or academy may require
45 achievement of a satisfactory score on the
46 state-wide mastery examination, or any subsequent
47 retest on a component of such examination as the
48 sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

49 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1,
50 2000.

51 ED COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 7 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 204

STATE IMPACT Cost, see below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT None
STATE AGENCY(S) Department of Education

	Current FY	1998-99	1999-2000
State Cost	:	:	:
(savings)	:	550,000	550,000
St Revenue	:	:	:
(loss)	:	:	:
Net St Cost	:	:	:
(savings)	:	:	:
Municipal	:	:	:
Impact	:	:	:

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: This bill results in a cost of approximately \$550,000 to the State Department of Education. Changing the date of testing to the Spring requires the reconstitution of the exams. The exams are in part reconstituted every few years however the alteration of testing dates would require full reconstitution. Funding is needed in SFY 1998-99 in order to prepare for the 2000-01 testing cycle. Funding is not provided in the budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee to carry out this change.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 204

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATIONS

SUMMARY: Starting in the 2000-01 school year, this bill requires the first three state mastery tests to be given in the spring of the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades instead of in October of the 4th, 6th, and 8th grades as it currently is. The bill does not change the 10th grade mastery test, which is already given in the spring, but it makes the spring administration a legal requirement. The law currently specifies the grades in which mastery tests must be given but not when during the school year they are administered. In practice, the timing is determined by the State Department of Education.

The tests measure whether students have mastered essential grade-level skills in reading, language arts, and mathematics.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 23 Nay 7